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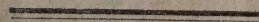
OF THE

BOSTON ASYLUM

FOR

INDIGENT BOYS.

INCORPORATED FEBRUARY 24, 1814.



BOSTON :

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1831.



Asylum for Boys.

A period of eight years has elapsed since an account of the Boston Asylum for Indigent Boys has been given to the public. The Directors have thought that a statement of its management and situation was due to its patrons, and might be the means of relieving it from its present embarrassment.

The objects of this charity are almost exclusively orphans born in the city, who are received at the early age of five or six years. In no case are children admitted into the Asylum but under circumstances of well ascertained necessity, and when their friends are utterly unable to support them. They remain under the tuition of the Matron and Instructress until of proper age, when they enter the public schools; at eleven or twelve years of age, they are bound out to farmers in different parts of the State. This course has been found productive of the best results, and there have been but very few exceptions to its adoption. The character and situation of those to whom the boys are apprenticed, are made the subject of particular inquiry, and the testimony of the selectmen and clergymen of the town where they may live, is required as to their fitness

to take charge of them ; they are obligated to continue their instruction in reading, writing, arithmetic, and in Christian morals and religion.

Several gentlemen associated for the establishment of this institution in 1813 ; in February, 1814, an act of incorporation was granted, and the Society was organised shortly afterwards. Among its early patrons, the late Benjamin Greene, Esq. its first President, was eminently conspicuous by his active and efficient services in its establishment. Since its organisation in 1814, one hundred and forty-six children have been received into the Asylum ; seven have died or been given up to their friends ; ninety-four have been apprenticed, and forty-five remain. The applications for admission have been three hundred and fifty-seven, and they continue, beyond the means of the institution. The applications for apprentices likewise exceeds the number which can be supplied, thus affording a gratifying proof of the excellence of the present system of management.

As one of the objects of this report is to attract to this institution the attention of the benevolent, it may be proper, in this place, to notice the only objections which are known to have been made to its present administration.

It has been objected, that the house and land absorb too great a proportion of its funds. In reply, it may be stated, that, at five per cent. on the investment, the expense, on this account, is but four hundred and sixty-

four dollars, thirty-four cents per annum, for a substantial house, with ample accommodation for sixty boys, in an elevated situation, and with an extensive playground. It is thought that a proper house could not be found, in any part of the city, at so low a rate.

It has been suggested, likewise, that it might be a better plan that a farm should be purchased, on which the boys might labor, and thus partly support themselves, and be better fitted, at less expense, to enter on the stage of life. In reply, it may be stated, that the expense is now less than one dollar per week for each boy, for food, clothing, and tuition, the whole expense of the institution being rather less than two thousand three hundred dollars per annum. In the case supposed, a competent instructor must be found, whose duties and responsibility would be heavy, and whose salary must therefore be liberal; this, with the expenses of carrying on a farm, the clothing and groceries for forty-five boys, and the other expenses of the establishment, would amount to more than two thousand three hundred dollars, and therefore, on the score of expense, there would be no saving.

As to their being better or as well fitted to enter on the stage of life, it may well be doubted; they are now, at the age of seven, sent to the public schools; they associate there with other boys, on equal terms, and realize all the various and important advantages of a public education. A more healthy and robust set of boys than they are *now*, cannot be found, and it is

believed that by no different training could they be so well prepared for the duties of life, as by that to which they are now subjected. The present plan of sending the boys to the public schools, was adopted in January, 1826, and its success has surpassed the most sanguine expectations.

Nearly one hundred boys have been apprenticed from the Asylum since its establishment ; the instances of misconduct have been extremely rare, and the benefactors of the institution have the satisfactory reflection, that they have been instrumental in saving this number of fellow-beings from probable vice and misery, and in forming them into useful and respectable members of society.

The average number in the Asylum for some years past has been forty-five ; this number might be increased to sixty ; the house could well accommodate them, and the increased expense would be small in proportion to the increased number. Far, however, from doing this, the Managers have been compelled to reject all applications for admission, and they will be obliged to keep the doors shut, until the present number is reduced to about twenty-five, or until, by the aid of the benevolent, they can again open them.

The expenses of the Asylum, for a number of years past, have exceeded its income by about six hundred dollars per annum ; this has resulted from the diminution of annual subscriptions ; deaths, removals, and misfortunes have reduced the amount received from

this source, from two thousand five hundred and eighty dollars per annum, to less than one thousand ; and from the same causes, it is still continually diminishing.

There are many who have entered into life since an appeal has been made to the public in behalf of this institution, who, it is believed, would gladly contribute three dollars per annum to an object like this, and an opportunity will soon be afforded to them to do so.

The By-Laws and Regulations of the Society, which follow, will give further information as to its purposes and the mode of conducting its affairs.

Officers.

GARDINER GREENE, *President.*

JOSEPH AUSTIN, *Vice-President.*

JONATHAN CHAPMAN, JR. *Secretary.*

W. J. LORING, *Treasurer.*

Managers.

FRANCIS PARKMAN,

JAMES C. MERRIL,

WILLIAM APPLETON,

EDWARD REYNOLDS,

E. H. ROBBINS,

ABBOT LAWRENCE,

JAMES BOWDOIN,

BENJAMIN E. GREENE,

THOMAS B. CURTIS.

BY-LAWS.

1. Every person who shall contribute one hundred dollars, shall be considered a member for life, of the first class; every person who shall contribute fifty dollars and upwards, and less than one hundred dollars, shall be considered a member for life of the second class; and such subscriptions shall be added to the permanent fund.

2. Every person who shall subscribe and pay three dollars annually, shall be considered a member during pleasure.

3. The amount of all donations and bequests, (except otherwise prescribed by the donor or testator,) and of all collections, except the annual subscriptions, shall constitute a permanent fund, and be invested in such manner, as the Board of Managers shall direct, and the income only of the permanent fund shall be expended for the purposes of the charity.

4. A meeting of the Board of Managers shall be held the second Monday of every month, at the Asylum House, for the purpose of attending to the con-

cerns of the Society ; and any three of their number shall be competent to the transaction of all business, except the admission and discharge of boys ; the meeting shall be held at such hour as shall be determined on by the Managers.

5. The President shall preside at all meetings of the Society and Board of Managers, which he shall attend ; in his absence the Vice President ; if neither be present, the Society or Board of Managers, as the case may be, may elect a Chairman. At all meetings the presiding officer, in case of an equal division, shall have the casting vote.

6. It shall be the duty of the Secretary to notify and attend all meetings of the Society, and of the Board of Managers ; to keep a correct and fair record of their proceedings, and to do all necessary writing relative to the business of the corporation. The Secretary shall also place in the Managers' room at the Asylum House, the name and place of residence of the Monthly Committee, to the end that all persons may know to whom to apply for the admission or removal of a child ; he shall also record in a book kept for that purpose all applications for admission into the Asylum, which (except in special cases) shall have priority of claim according to their date.

7. The Treasurer shall attend the meetings of the Board of Managers, and shall render once in every three months an account of moneys received, paid out, and remaining in his hands.

8. In the event of a vacancy in the Board of Managers, a nomination list shall be opened for one month, and the Secretary previous to the election of the Manager or Managers to fill such vacancy, shall insert in his notification to the Board, information that a choice is to be made.

9. There shall be a Committee of one taken from the Board of Managers, for each and every month, to serve in rotation, whose duty it shall be to examine into the circumstances of boys offered for admission into the Asylum, and also to make inquiries concerning those persons applying to take boys out of the Asylum, to call special intermediate meetings of the Managers, and generally to oversee the concerns of the institution.

10. There shall be a Master or Matron of the Asylum, to be appointed by the Board of Managers, and removable by them, to whom shall be intrusted the more immediate management and superintendence of the boys. It shall be the duty of the Master or Matron, to remain constantly at the Asylum, and in no case to be absent, especially during the night, without permission from the Monthly Committee; nor shall the Master or Matron allow any boy to be absent at any time from the Asylum, without special permission in writing from one of the Managers.

11. The boys shall be received into the Asylum from three to twelve years of age, and be allowed to remain there till disposed of, as authorised by the Act

of Incorporation. Boys born in the city of Boston will be preferred. The boys shall be taught to read, write, and cipher, and shall be employed in some useful occupation.

12. Every parent, guardian, or other person, surrendering a boy to the Society, shall, previously to the admission of such boy into the Asylum, give an obligation not to interfere in the management of the child, and not to visit him without the consent of a Manager, nor ask or receive any compensation for his services, nor induce, or attempt to induce any child to leave the family or station in which he may be placed by the Managers.

13. No relative or acquaintance of any child belonging to the Asylum, shall interfere in the management of such child, or be permitted to visit him, except in presence of the Master or Matron, nor shall more than two of the same family visit any child at one time, nor for a longer time than half an hour, except in case of sickness.

14. No boy shall be received into or dismissed from the Asylum, or apprenticed out, except by a majority of the Board of Managers; nor shall any boy be admitted into the Asylum before his surrender shall have been made to the Society, and the parent or guardian shall have obliged him or herself to receive the child, if, after a trial of three months, the Board of Managers shall choose to return him. In placing out the boys, subscribers are to have the preference.

15. Every member shall pay the annual subscription on the first Monday of May, that being the anniversary of the election of officers ; and any subscriber intending to withdraw from the Society, shall give notice of such intention to the Secretary in writing by the 15th of April, otherwise he shall be held to pay the annual subscription for the next year.

Form of a Surrender.

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS,
That I of in the county of
 and Commonwealth of Massachusetts,
the of , a minor, in consid-
eration that the said child has been received by the
BOSTON ASYLUM FOR INDIGENT BOYS, to be nur-
tured, educated and employed, according to the rules
and regulations of said Institution, do hereby surren-
der and release the said to the said BOSTON
ASYLUM FOR INDIGENT BOYS, to the entire, sole, and
exclusive care, management, and direction of the said
Society and the Board of Managers thereof, until the
 day of which will be in the
year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and
 when the said will arrive at
the age of twenty-one years ; to be fed, clothed, gov-
erned, corrected, instructed, and employed, according
to the regulations of said Institution, and under the di-
rection of the proper officers thereof ; and when they
shall think fit and proper, by them to be bound out in
a virtuous family, or to a reputable trade or occupa-
tion ; or to be educated in such other manner as they

may deem beneficial during said term of minority ; hereby giving, granting, and transferring unto them, all my right, power, and authority in and over him the said minor.

And I do hereby covenant, That I will in no way or manner, either directly or indirectly, interfere with the management, direction, or government of the said minor ; that I will never visit, nor attempt to visit him, except as may from time to time be permitted me under the regulations of said Institution ; that I will never ask nor receive any compensation for his services ; nor induce, nor attempt to induce him to leave any family, station, or employment, in which he may be placed by the Board of Managers ; and, finally, that I will strictly conform to all the rules, regulations, and requirements of the said **BOSTON ASYLUM FOR INDIGENT BOYS.**

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and seal this day of in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and

*Signed, sealed, and delivered
in presence of*

The Indentures are in common form.

Regulations.

1. The children, if the weather permit, shall regularly attend public worship, with the Master or Matron every Sunday, at such place as the Board of Managers shall direct ; and it shall be the duty of the Master or Matron to attend particularly on that day to the religious instruction of the children.

2. The Master or Matron shall read a portion of Scripture, and pray with the children morning and evening ; and shall attend them at their meals and say grace. They shall also endeavor by precept and example, to instil into the minds of the children the principles of religion, and to form to them habits of piety and virtue.

Form of a Bequest.

ITEM.—*I give and devise unto the ‘BOSTON ASYLUM FOR INDIGENT BOYS,’ the sum of*
to be paid to the Treasurer thereof by my Executor,
within *months after my decease, and applied*
by the Board of Managers, for the time being, towards
carrying on the charitable design of said Society.

Life Subscribers.

FIRST CLASS.

Jonathan Amory	Israel Munson
P. C. Brooks	Also donation, 30 Dollars.
Also donation, 200 Dollars.	William Phillips
Benjamin Bussey	Also legacy, 2000 Dollars.
James Bowdoin	William Parsons
Joseph Coolidge	Ebenezer Parsons
Samuel Dorr	Samuel Parkman
Also donation, 100 Dollars.	Samuel Salisbury
Benjamin Greene	Francis Stanton
Abraham Gibson	John D. Williams
James Lloyd	Thomas B. Wales
	Also donation, 100 Dollars.

SECOND CLASS.

Nathan Appleton	William Appleton
Also donation, 100 Dollars.	Also donation, 50 Dollars.
Samuel Appleton	Miss Caroline Amory
Ebenezer T. Andrews	Samuel T. Armstrong
Also donation, 97 Dollars.	Z. B. Adams
Mrs. H. R. Amory	William Brown, Jr.
John Amory	Also Donation, 50 Dollars.
Also donation, 50 Dollars.	Edward Blake, Jr.
Nathaniel Amory	George Bond

George Brinley

Also donation, 20 Dollars.

Adam Babcock

John Bishop, Jr.

Nathaniel Bishop

Joseph P. Bradlee

Also donation, 25 Dollars.

Mrs. Catharine Codman

Nathaniel Curtis

James S. Colburn

Richard Chamberlain

Pliny Cutler

William Cochran

Mrs. E. Cook

Amasa Davis

John Dorr

Josiah Dow

Samuel Dunn

Joseph Dorr

Mrs. Eleanor Davis

Mrs. Elizabeth Derby

Also Donation, 50 Dollars.

Otis Everett

Also Donation, 100 Dollars.

David Ellis

William H. Eliot

Rev. A. Eaton

Ebenezer Francis

Gardiner Greene

Also donation, 200 Dollars.

Miss Hannah Greene

Miss Mary Greene

Henry Gray

John C. Gray

Francis C. Gray

John Grew

John Howe

Joseph Head

Samuel Hubbard

John Hubbard

Also donation, 47 Dollars.

Miss Catharine C. Holland

Thomas K. Jones.

John C. Jones

William Jackson

P. T. Jackson

Mrs. Abigail Joy

Miss Abby Joy

Amos Lawrence

Also donation, 35½ Dollars.

Abbot Lawrence

Also donation, 250 Dollars.

Mrs. William Lee

Edward A. Newton

Henry J. Oliver [port

Mrs. E. Prescott, Newbury-

Also donation, 60 Dollars.

William Prescott

T. H. Perkins

Also donation, 50 Dollars, and 20
Dollars per annum for ten years.

James Perkins

John Perry

Daniel P. Parker

Also donation, 113 Dollars.

Rev. F. Parkman

Also donation, 103 Dollars.

John Parker

Also donation, 103 Dollars.

Jonathan Phillips

Mrs. S. Parkman

Daniel D. Rogers

John Richards

Joseph W. Revere

A. Ritchie, Jr.

Paul D. Richards

E. H. Robbins, Jr.

David Sears

David Sears, Jr.

Also donation, 200 Dollars.

Samuel Swett

R. G. Shaw

Mrs. Hannah Smith

Henry Sigourney

George C. Shattuck

Edward Tuckerman, Jr.

R. D. Tucker

John Tappan

Beza Tucker

Lewis Tappan

I. Thorndike

Also donation, 50 Dollars.

Thomas Wigglesworth

Also donation, 25 Dollars.

Samuel H. Walley

Also donation, 105 Dollars.

Charles Walley

Donations.

John McLean	\$300
Park Street Singing Society	200
Fines of Infantry exempts	116
Legacy from Daniel Stocker	300
Samuel H. Walley	105
Legacy from Mrs. Lydia Sparhawk	1000
Anonymous	100
Legacy from Abraham Touro	5000
“ “ William Lambert	300
Otis Everett	105
Legacy from William Burroughs	500
“ “ William Phillips	2000
Daniel P. Parker	113
J. Davis, Manager of the French Opera	235
James Perkins	1000
Legacy from Jeremiah Belknap	1000
Harmonicon Society	119
Gardiner Greene	200
David Sears	200
Abbot Lawrence	250
Amos Lawrence	350
P. C. Brooks	200
A Society of Ladies for the benefit of the Poor	200
H. G. Otis	130
Samuel Dorr	100

Joshua Clapp	\$100
Josiah Bradlee	100
John Parker	100
William Lawrence	100
Robert Rogerson	100
Thomas B. Wales	100
Nathan Appleton	100
William Sturgis	100
Edward Renouf	100
Rev. F. Parkman	100
Mr. Haddock, exhibition of Androides	92
Firewards of Town of Boston	70
Robert G. Shaw	65
James A. Dickson	90
Ebenezer T. Andrews	97
Mrs. Lowell	55
I. Thorndike	50
William Brown	50
A Lady	50
James Wallack	50
C. C. Nichols	50
Anonymous	50
Mrs. E. Prescott, of Newburyport	60
Legacy of A. Crocker	50
Misses Eliza and Agnes McKean	50
Legacy of Mrs. Phil. Elcan	50
“ Phineas Spelman	50
A Friend	75
“	50
James Read	50
John Amory	50

Samuel Whitwell	\$50	
Managers of Peace Ball	44	20
Messrs. E. and A. Winchester	40	
John Hubbard	46	67
Exhibition of Jacea Gloriosa	36	88
Gleaning Circle	30	
Israel Munson	30	
H. G. Rice	25	
Lewis Tappan	25	
Henry Hubbard	25	
Artemas Ward	25	
J. P. Bradlee	25	
J. Lamson	25	
Joseph Austin	30	
Thomas Dennie	20	
George Brinley	20	
Charles Barnard	20	
John Brown	20	
A Lady	20	
Anonymous	20	
T. H. Perkins, Jr.	20	
Anonymous	20	
Mrs. Poussin	20	
William Dall	20	
Isaac Winslow	20	

PERMANENT FUNDS.

House and Land in Salem Street	\$9286 90
Invested in Massachusetts Hospital Life Assu- rance Company	14550 00
	\$23826 90